

12-25-1868

## Letter from Anne Whitney, 1868 December 25

Anne Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

Follow this and additional works at: [https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney\\_correspondence](https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence)

---

### Recommended Citation

Whitney, Anne and Wellesley College Archives, "Letter from Anne Whitney, 1868 December 25" (1868). *Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence*. 168.  
[https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney\\_correspondence/168](https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence/168)

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4) at Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. For more information, please contact [ir@wellesley.edu](mailto:ir@wellesley.edu).

1868<sup>th</sup> Christmas.

- 5 -

My dearest Home. I have left no 15;  
I come ~~here~~ & spend the rest of the  
day with you. Two letters have come  
since I sent my last letter. The second  
one last evg. & I was ever present of the  
best kind. The acct. of Thanksgiving & of  
yrs pleasant gathering with the singing &  
singing & James pleasant letter wh. ar-  
rived at the same time did much toward  
giving me a post-facto participation in  
the festival. To day you are going to have  
(celebration) another celebration at wh. I wish we might  
be present. Last year in Rome was nothing  
to this. The cannon & the bells are the same  
but the crowd - the sense of new thousand  
whom <sup>the</sup> one great sea them, that fills the  
air - makes this year seem diff. from  
the last. Miss Williams who called before  
is expecting Miss Soli every day. I believe  
she is in Paris. I wd. not have had for  
send Browning. it is too much for anyone  
to bring. I think if I had thought of it  
in season I wd have asked you to send a  
bottle of liquid blacking - not the Dray's  
martin kind - but that wh. is a polish  
in itself & is put on with a brush. We  
bought boots in Munich wh. are a great  
molester nuisance in that they are thin  
black like velvet I believe & lamp black  
& everything that one wears with them, skirts  
& stockings take the same color. We have  
tried soap, soda & karslsborn - nothing ~~will~~  
Y.H.P.



it - but I think the Black Polish might  
varnish it over - It is not to be found here.  
What you say of Dr. Bartol makes me  
fear that some dreadful calamity is impending.  
His mental condition is deeply rooted in  
business for wh. I doubt if there is any cure.  
But I believe the water-trial wd be the  
best - or even the movement-cure (Dr. Zappa  
of S. Y) ~~They~~ Both systems are shocking  
& more likely to wake a frame from such  
desperate torpor than these the other  
paths together - I wonder where his sister  
Mary now is - There are some paths here.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jarves very much liked  
one whom they consulted ~~for~~ for their baby.  
But my faith in them is as a grain of  
mustard seed in a bit of paper - They have  
less information generally than the other  
side & can only administer medicine, while  
the latter, if you can keep clear of their  
medicine may help you to something val-  
uable in the way of suggestion. Mrs. Allen  
goes tomorrow & departs with her cousins  
& returns when they continue their journey  
east - They have been to day to St. Peter's  
& see them "worship God the Pope's great  
way" (see the Boy & the Angel Browning.)  
The church was filled & not filled - I should  
have swallowed in the enormous space. The  
ambush old pope - all the foreigners are  
good people, though he looks like a "good" old  
man - looks tired & bored I suppose - they  
say "humble" but anybody looks humble

when sea sick & riding on one's shoulders  
is one of the very obligations of or privileges  
of Popishness. Our church-going is limited to  
the vesper service in the Trin<sup>a</sup> or Monti Close  
by - when the lovely music on Sunday  
& other festive afternoons. Chiefly the singing  
of the mass - forms a worship to wh. we  
find it in our hearts to respond much  
more readily than to the full formality  
of the org. ritual - of wh the American  
clergymen here is not a very acceptable  
administrator. I think that even father  
& mother if they were obliged to wait  
a few times upon this kind of ministrations  
of doctrine wd. hold us & cause for reluctance,  
& preferring to keep ~~the~~ Sabbath morning on  
the heights of Trinita.

The advertiser is  
very irregular - I think I have rec<sup>d</sup>. 2  
in about 6 weeks. The Nation & Tribune  
are constant & I don't see where the  
remittances can be made at the source.  
James says in his letter that if he were  
in Europe he wd. find it very easy to  
write interesting letters - I don't question it.  
Travelling there is material enough on all  
hands. But when one comes to settle to work  
it is another thing - & you at home have  
the advantage of us - because all the details  
of home have interest for us - & the mere  
every day of living here does not take sufficient  
hold of us to enable us to make it interesting.  
This or that new face - This little society



event. call or company or exchange of civilities.  
import - not much. When it is so much on  
the surface & so little a part of real  
doing & being. In the winter then I think  
you must reconcile yourself to hum. drum  
epistles. When any one or thing comes along  
to wake one up of course you will know  
it. The season has commenced. it is opened  
generally by a great business party at  
Mr. Dooker's one of the multitudinous  
bankers here. A man whose reputation  
for civility or honorableness is not very  
high. whether justly or not I cannot say.  
But he does a good stroke of business with  
his Christmas - eve party. To which he sends  
out great cards of invitation without  
envelopes & pretty much like the noti-  
fications sent round at the opening  
of a millinery establishment. All who  
do business at P & A's have cards. &  
the reason it is so profitable & spec-  
ulation is that he has a rehearsal of  
a celebrated musical performance wh.  
~~is given~~ <sup>takes place</sup> the next day at one of  
the churches. Tomorrow night ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup>  
is to <sup>be</sup> a party at Bucknham Read's  
wh. I am invited. but have declined.  
You don't know what a sense of  
freedom it gives to have settled a plan  
of action for the winter. The bane  
of students & students work here is. that  
eternal going. The now acknowledged



working hours have yet given me an  
unsettled feeling. but all will be remedied  
this week I hope & my sign put up.  
We are in good health & spirits & it is  
a comfort to hear such good news from  
you all. I have not answered Mary's  
last letter - but am looking every day for  
Charles' arrival on his way east.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> - We breakfasted with our  
window thrown wide open this morning.  
our windows let in all the city to us that  
while we are as good as undiscovered.  
& never need to close ~~our~~<sup>the</sup> shutters of our  
chamber. The privilege of not simply  
altitude - but the position on the brow  
of the hill - It is the 12 o'clock cannon.  
I went to go out for a little foot-  
warming & to drop this letter. The best  
of blessings went on you this coming year  
in health in mental serenity, in joyful  
hope. The distance between R & B. is less  
& less - & the spirit - with the atmosphere  
softness might be ~~diffused~~ sent thither  
to keep you from the chill of winter  
winds. This diff- seems to make a greater  
diff- The driving snow of wk. we read  
the howling wind - wild - naughty hard new  
Eng! Addy sends kindest love & best wishes  
for the new year. Love to all -

Carrie's quotation from Miss S's lucubrations  
was particularly instructive - What about her? Did  
she open that school for young ladies in England?



best painter in Rome. Hotchkiss has kept himself entirely aloof from it & his work thanks him & the public thank it. But I am afraid the poor fellow is going to leave Rome & painting & all. He has had bleeding at the lungs for several years. I called to see him the morning after his last attack (there is a message for him from a friend) 2 months ago & more & he was considerably himself upon feeling so much better for the relief. He has been in Rome for good many years. He said to a friend of his that he had not called on me but that I knew the reason. He paints & lives in one of those altitudinous lofts in Roman houses that are reaching to the top of heart & breath & foot - but delightful when once attained. It is certainly enough to climb two or three

I have been in my studio for almost a month & it hardly seems as if I were underweight yet. The slave has been sick & is to be charged tomorrow. There is a slate cover of the window without being collected the moisture back as sure that the floor in the front room always looks as if it had just been drenched in spots. This & other odd carpenter's jobs - mendings & finishings. tho they have not positively interfered with



Doit Mademoiselle Ann Whitney

À compte courant chez John Munroe & Co. arrêté au 31 décembre 1868. Avoir

Intérêts 5%

1868	July 27	To Draft of Lilla freeborn. Co	500	-
	Aug 8	" " " " " " " "	500	-
	" 14	" " " " " " " "	250	-
	Oct 22	" " " " " " " "	500	-
	Nov 11	" " " " " " " "	500	-
	Dec 31	Interest, 5%	36	90
	" "	Commissions 1 1/2% of 2250-	33	75
	" "	Stamps 1.55. Postages 1.10	2	65
			<hr/>	
			\$ 2323 30.	

1868	Aug 11	By our Draft on Boston	1009	-	14 Nov.
	Nov 13	" " " " " " " "	1250	-	16 febr
	Dec 31	" " " " " " " "	73	30	15 Apr.
	Jan 8	" " " " " " " "			



G. G.  
Paris, December 31<sup>st</sup> 1868.  
John Munroe & Co in liquidation  
per J. H. Stur